Menace of marketing calls

3060. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has not taken any steps to prevent the menace of marketing calls despite instructions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in a Public Interest Litigation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Cellular Operators have breached the right to privacy of their consumers; and

(c) if so, the corrective action taken by TRAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In response to Writ Petition (Civil) No. 35 of 2005 between HARSH PATHAK v/s. Union fo India & Others, the learned Additional Solicitor General informed Hon'ble Supreme Court that Union of India is taking steps for the purpose of resolving the problem of Unsolicited Telemarketing.

TRAI initiated a consultation process for findng a solution to restrict Unsolicited Commercial Communication to subscribers who do not want such calls. Based on the stakeholders responses, internal discussions and international practices, TRAI has recently released a draft regulation for putting in place a mechanism called "National Do Not Call Registry (NDNCG)" for curbing the unwanted telemarketing calls.

Keeping in mind the concerns of their consumers, the mobile service providers have introduced "Do Not Disturb" facility, for the subscribers who do not wish to receive information on products and services of their mobile service provider. Also, TRAI has advised the mobile subscribers through advertisement in leading newspapers to use this facility.

Amendment of IT Act, 2000

3061. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has initiated a number of measures for the

amendment to the information Technology Act 2000, where a provision for setting up a mandate for critical infrastructure sector such as telecom, transport, banks, power, defence, aviation and railways would be mandated to secure their information technology system and network;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been discussed; and

(c) if so, by when the Bill for amending the Information Technology Act is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A policy on protection of critical infrastructure is in place. The policy is aimed at ensuring compliance by Government and critical sectors and verification through periodic risk assessments and annual audits by third party auditing organizations.

In support of the above security policy, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has created a panel of 55 IT security auditors to help the organizations to get their IT infrastructure and information systems audited from the point of view of Risk assessment, penetration of network and vulnerability assessment.

(c) A Bill has already been introduced in Lok Sabha on 15.12.2006 to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000 and has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for IT.

Connection of horizontal offices in districts and talukas

3062. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for Non-exchange Line to connect horizontal offices in districts and talukas which can be extended to the villages in future; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, at present there is no such project under consideration.